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Message Text

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64
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /125 W
---------- 002489
R 031755Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 149
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROM E 7844

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, NATO, IT
SUBJECT: BURDEN SHARING

REF: USNATO 3652

1. DURING LUNCHEON MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MORO AND SECRETARY GENERAL GAJA AUGUST 3 THE AMBASSADOR MADE A STRONG PRESENTATION OF THE SERIOUS NEED FOR ADDITIONAL EUROPEAN HELP IN BURDENSHARING. HE REVIEWED THE RECENT VOTE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHICH DEFEATED A MOVE TO REDUCE TROOP LEVELS ABROAD. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE HOUSE REQUESTED THE ARMED SERVICES
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COMMITTEE TO REPORT BY APRIL 1974. AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED IF

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PROGRESS IS NOT MADE ON BURDENSHARING AND MBFR IN THE MEAN-
TIME IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE ADMINISRATION TO MAINTAIN
ITS POSITION IN EUROPE AGAINST CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES.

2. MORO INDICATED HIS COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION AND
SAID THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FULLY ACCEPTS THE PRINCIPLE OF
BURDENSHARING. THE ITALIANS HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN THE EUROGROUP
AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE TANASSI IS THE PRESENT CHAIRMAN. MORO
POINED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM IN
CONCRETE FINANCIAL TERMS. THE AMBASSADOR SKETCHED OUT BRIEFLY
THE IDEAS CONTAINED IN AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD'S PRESENTATION IN
REFTEL. THE ITALIANS HAD NOT YET RECEIVED THE REPORT ON THAT MEETING
BUT MORO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD GIVE CLOSE ATTENTION TO THIS
MATTER.

3. WHILE MORO DID NOT MENTION IT IN THIS CONTEXT HE IS VERY SENSI-
TIVE TO THE FACT THAT THE ITALIAN BUDGET IS IN HEAVY DEFICIT. APPROX-
IMATELY QEP PERCENT OF 1974 BUDGET IS NOT COVERED BY PROJECTED
INCOME. VOLPE

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